

HIGH HOPES FOR THE PHILLIES

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, spring has sprung, and opening day is on the horizon. Spring is meant for new beginnings.

What a run our Phillies had last season. This year, Phillies fans come to this season with, as the great Harry Kalas sings to us after every home win, "High Hopes" for our Fightin' Phils.

Madam Speaker, we have high hopes for Trea Turner, J.T. Realmuto, Aaron Nola, Zack Wheeler, Kyle Schwarber, and our world-class players being led to glory by our manager, Philly Rob; and high hopes for the return of Bryce Harper and the recovery of Rhys Hoskins from his devastating ACL injury. We wish him a full recovery.

In my hometown of Glenside, we have high hopes for our two Glenside boys, Mike and Sammy Siani. Mike was called up to the majors last season with the Cincinnati Reds, and Sammy is well on his way.

Good luck to the Glenside Siani men, and watch out for the Fightin' Phils this season. Let's play ball.

COVENANT SCHOOL SHOOTING

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, here we are again, talking about another school shooting.

When will enough be enough in this country?

How is it that we allow our schoolchildren to go to school each day with the uncertainty of their own safety?

How do we allow parents to drop children off and not be able sometimes to pick them up at the end of the school day?

At Covenant School on Monday, in Nashville, three 9-year-old babies were slaughtered and three of their teachers, or adults, were taken, as well.

□ 1045

It is a shameful number. We now in this country have had 15 mass shootings at schools. When will enough be enough?

I hear an appalling silence from the majority party in this House—an appalling silence. Call for the safety of every one of our citizens. Call for the safety of every one of our children as they go to school, that they can come home safely and not be terrorized by what is going on.

Here we are the greatest Nation on the planet, and we can't keep our children safe. Let's close the background check loophole. Let's keep guns out of the hands of violent people. Let's get weapons of war out of the hands of civilians, off our streets, and out of our schools. We are failing our children and our grandchildren—this greatest Nation on the planet.

Please stop the appalling silence. Partner with us to end gun violence in this country and to end this shameful nightmare.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF U.S. AIR FORCE FIRST LIEUTENANT THEODORE "TED" COHEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on Vietnam Veterans Day to first and foremost thank the Vietnam veterans from my district and around the country who served, but also for a very special person, First Lieutenant Theodore "Ted" Cohen, a Staten Island resident who sadly passed away this past Saturday.

Ted was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He attended Brooklyn College where he was a member of the ROTC. Not long after the start of the Vietnam war, he served his first tour in Spain with the Strategic Air Command before flying on 26 close air support missions in Vietnam.

Upon his return to the States, Ted spent his nights working with the Daily News before spending 25 years working for Avon in international marketing. When Ted's wife fell ill, he retired early. He decided to care for her and ensure that their last 9 years together were spent traveling the world.

After his wife passed away, his passion for caring for others, especially our veterans, became his mission. Ted served as a member of the United States Island Veterans Organization, the Air Force Association, and The American Legion. He would bring food to homebound servicemen and -women. He would provide rides to and from their appointments at the VA if they were unable to drive themselves. He even went to help them complete their paperwork, which we know can sometimes be cumbersome.

Not only was Ted a constituent and a champion for our Nation's veterans, but he was a dear friend to my office, having been a vocal member of our monthly veterans' roundtable. He always contributed greatly. He had many recommendations. We worked together to improve VA access and care.

He also served on our academy nomination board for the past several years where he provided invaluable assistance and advice to our youth throughout the entire academy nominations process, and he helped us select the next generation of servicemembers.

Our office, our local veterans, and our entire community will sincerely miss Ted and his invaluable service. His willingness to give back was so appreciated by all.

Ted exemplified the very best of what it means to be an American, to put your country, to put your community, and to put others first. He answered every call to serve with honor, integrity, and distinction. We owe him an immeasurable debt of gratitude, not only for his service to our country, but for his lifelong service to our community.

Please join me in extending condolences to his family. I thank Ted for his service.

AMERICAN GUN VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today heartbroken by perpetual tragedy and outraged by perpetual inaction.

On Monday, a school shooting in Nashville left three 9-year-old students and three adults dead. The next day, when asked about solutions to the American gun violence epidemic, the majority leader of the House of Representatives offered his solution: prayers.

Let's be clear, thoughts and prayers don't save a single solitary life. Yet, after more than 130 mass shootings in less than 3 months, the Republican Party has still chosen to allow our children to be murdered in their classrooms.

To be clear, this is a choice. After every mass shooting, Republicans choose to offer empty thoughts and prayers instead of commonsense solutions, and then they turn around and cash their NRA checks.

I have spent my entire career in public service and every Sunday in church. I will never understand how a human being, let alone one elected to serve others, would willingly endanger the lives of their children for a little bit of money. Frankly, it makes me sick to my stomach.

Every American—Republican, Democrat, and Independent—wants to live in a country where they don't have to fear that dropping off their child at the bus stop may be the last time they see them alive.

Too many of us, however, accept this dystopian reality. The cycle of murder, devastation, and inaction has become so commonplace that most mass shootings don't even make the headlines. Outside of war zones, no country on Earth so consistently chooses to accept so much death and terror.

I certainly choose not to accept it. I choose to take necessary action to curb the scourge of gun violence in our country. I choose to fight for universal background checks, an assault weapons ban, and whatever it takes to protect our communities.

I dream of a safer America. I choose to keep fighting until it is no longer just a dream. Words mean nothing. Action is what we need.

CELEBRATING THE 190TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY OF AMITY AND COMMERCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 190th anniversary